



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/575,607	04/13/2006	Robert J. Lind	1340US2	1644
25279 7590 12/19/2011 GRACO MINNESOTA INC PO BOX 1441 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440				
EXAMINER HWU, DAVIS D				
ART UNIT 3752		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 12/19/2011		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

pto@graco.com
nskaalrud@graco.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/575,607

Applicant(s)

LIND ET AL

Examiner

Davis Hwu

Art Unit

3752

Period for Reply
-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 5-7 is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-884)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment and arguments of December 8, 2011 have been entered.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laabs et al.

Laabs et al. discloses a method of operating a variable speed spraying device having an electric motor 26, a control, and a temperature, and operates to maintain a user-selected controlled pressure, the method comprising: monitoring the temperature of the motor (column 4, lines 26-36); and changing the control of the motor from variable speed control to on/off control when the motor temperature exceeds a predetermined level to enable continued continuous spraying at the user-selected pressure. When the device is turned on, it becomes variable speed control since a user can adjust the motor speed during operation, and since the device automatically shuts off the motor speed when the motor speed exceeds the predetermined level as stated above, the device changes from the variable speed control to on/off control since the motor will automatically shut off upon meeting the temperature conditions, thus meeting the claim language of "changing the control ... predetermined level to enable continued spraying at the user-selected pressure." Furthermore, since the device continues spraying until the temperature condition is met, the device is enabled to continue spraying at a user-selected pressure as soon as the device is turned on, thus meeting the claim language

of "to enable continued continuous spraying at said user-selected pressure." Laabs et al. do not disclose the device as a paint sprayer, however, the teaching of Laabs et al. can be applied to a paint sprayer, since a purpose of the device of Laabs et al. is to protect its electric motor from excessive heat which is also the purpose of method of the instant claim 3.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 2, and 5-7 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed December 8, 201 regarding claim 3 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Since Laabs et al. discloses shutting down the device when a high temperature threshold is exceeded, the device automatically becomes on/off control when the device is activated. The device continues to spray until the motor shuts down due to excessive temperatures, thus meeting the recited claim language because the device continues to spray until it is shut down.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Davis Hwu whose telephone number is (571)272-4904. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday 8:00-4:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Len Tran can be reached on (571)272-1184. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system.

/Davis Hwu/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3752